



Los Angeles County Commission on Local Governmental Services

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Chairperson
Richard J. Rosenthal, CRE

Vice-Chairperson
Patricia G. Gray

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Shana E. Epstein.
Gordon Gray
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Sharon Martinez
Deborah H. O'Connor
Matthew J. Parlow
Kenneth D. Rozell
William Selditz
David Spence
Terri Tippit
Benjamin "Frank" Venti

MINUTES

April 5, 2005 Meeting
500 West Temple Street
Sybil Brand Conference Room 372
Los Angeles, California 90012

Vice Chairperson Gray called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 1, 2005 MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Leiga, seconded by Commissioner Rozell, with Commissioner O'Connor abstaining, the Commission duly approved the March 1, 2005 Minutes.

VICE-CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Vice-Chairperson Gray reported Commissioner Epstein plans to marry in July. Commissioner Matthew J. Parlow was appointed as one of the Los Angeles City Council representatives. Vice-Chairperson Gray stated the Committee has two vacancies, one for the Second District and Los Angeles City Council. Lt Thornton informed staff that the Sheriff's executive management supports the 911 PSAP pilot project, he will inform the Commission of any updates and he will probably be coming back to the Commission to request a letter of support for staff pilot the project.

DISCUSSION WITH THE LOS ANGELES METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT REGARDING WATER ISSUES INCLUDING WATER SUPPLY, WATER DELIVER AND WATER COSTS

Jim Edwards, Chairman of the Ethics Committee and Vice-Chairman of the Water Planning Committee for the Los Angeles Metropolitan Water District, reported the metropolitan service area parameter is from Ventura to Mexico, down the coast of Southern California, not including Imperial County. The District includes the following areas; Riverside, San Bernardino, Orange, San Diego, Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. The District provides surplus water to 26 member agencies and approximately 20 million people. The fastest growing areas are Riverside and San Diego Counties. The three primary water sources are:

- City of Los Angeles, a member agency, is solely owner of the aqueduct. The City has abundance of water this year due to the snow pack in Eastern Sierra
- The District is sole owner and operator of the aqueduct coming off from the Colorado River. The pump facility is behind Parker Dam. Electrical generators produce energy to pump the water from Boulder Dam and Hoover Dam over into the service area
- California Department of Water project built the Orville Dam in 1960 holds the water in the dam and release it into Feather, American, Sacramento, and Bay Delta. The Bay Delta plant pumps water down to the south end of the Delta into the service area

The State has 27 contractors who pay for Orville Dam and the aqueduct from the south end of the Bay Delta extending to Silver Lake in San Bernardino. The capacity for State Water Project for the District is 2 million acre ft, on annual basis the capacity of aqueduct from Colorado River is 1.2 million acre ft, for a total of a 3.2 million acre ft, if both aqueducts are full at all times. When surplus water is not available in Colorado River and the aqueduct is not full, the District receives only 550,000 acre ft of water from Colorado River aqueduct. For State water project the state decides the amount of surplus water available in Sierra and if the reservoirs are full.

Currently 60% of the 2 million acre ft of water is received from the State. These are the two primary sources of imported water.

The demand is 2 million plus acre ft of water by member agencies. The District purchases surplus water from various numbers of programs. The District receives water from Imperial Irrigation District and from Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID) on Colorado River. The District bought land on Colorado River and purchased the right to fallow some of the land. The agreement signed was based on fair market value. The District receives about 250,000 acre ft of water from these two projects.

In Northern California to supplement State Water project, the District reached an agreement with Eastern Sacramento Rice Growers to purchase about 120,000 acre ft of land. The District signed a deal with Glen Kluso Water Agency to purchase 80,000 acre ft of land. Two-thirds of Metropolitan Water is imported from Northern California. In Southern California, about 1 million acre ft of water is stored above the ground at various reservoirs, and conjunctive use programs with member agencies store additional 450,000 to 500,000 acre ft of usable water underground.

The District is a supplemental agency. When a member agency requires water, the District purchases the water and delivers it to the requesting agency. Each agency has different level of needs, San Diego takes about 450,000 acre ft, Beverly Hills takes about 50 acre ft.

Vice-Chairperson Gray inquired about requirements to ensure adequate water supply to serve the population. Mr. Edwards stated legislation was created in the last five years stating any tracts over 500 homes must specifically indicate the water route. Local water agencies must prove the ability to provide or transfer water from other agencies. The State Supreme Court stated water agencies owning pipes and canals and having surplus capacity must allow agencies 'to wheel water through' their canals. The amount charged is up to the owning agency with some parameters set by the court. The District wheels water to San Diego via the Colorado River through their aqueduct system. San Diego pays the District for its proportionate share of the canal cost and the energy required to transport water from Colorado River to San Diego. San Diego purchases the water from Imperial Irrigation District and uses the District processing system for transportation. Orange County purchases water from San Bernardino County and transports it to their local area through recharge.

Vice-Chairperson Gray asked if wheeling applies to wholesalers or does it apply to the State and L.A. City aqueducts. Mr. Edwards stated for the District aqueduct, when capacity is available any agency; cities and counties can purchase water and wheel it through the District. San Diego and Orange County purchase water directly because both counties use untreated water. L.A. County uses only treated water.

Commissioner Leiga asked about water prices. Mr. Edwards stated the District price is \$420/acre foot of untreated water and \$500 for treated water. There are two tiers of water charges. Excessive users are placed on tier two and pay higher price for water. Commissioner Liega stated due to recent heavy rain in Southern California plenty of surplus should be available. Mr. Edwards stated very little amount of the heavy rain is stored in recharge and some is spread in basins and dams. The snow pack in Southern Sierra is 100% over normal. The snow pack in Northern California is at 98% normal. Orville Dam is at 80% capacity and the two dams in Colorado River are both at 50% and there is no chance for increase this year because there isn't the usual snow pack in Utah, Nevada or Colorado.

Commissioner Leiga asked about the future of desalinization. Mr. Edwards stated average price is \$800/acre ft for treated water. This is costly but Mr. Edwards estimates that in ten years the desalination price curve will meet the purchased water price curve. Currently, there are no large west coast desalination plants. The City of Long Beach has an advanced desalinization facility using low pressure on @ 80% and high pressure on 20% with a saving of 20% using the theory of reverse osmosis. Of the \$800/acre ft for desalinization, \$700 is for energy.

Commissioner Gray asked about discussions to recapture the water running into the rivers and who is responsible. Mr. Edwards stated there are dam throughout Southern California, San Gabriel Valley, Cogswell, Santa Fe Dam, Hansen Dam, Sepulveda Basin, all are part of flood control. Flood control has nothing to do with water recycling and use; its charter is to remove water from basins. All flood control dams dump water out, running it into the river and ocean. Mr. Edwards recommended asking Los Angeles Flood Control to attend a Commission meeting to discuss their three primary dam systems and the capacity of each.

Commissioner Leiga asked if the District is a profitable business. Mr. Edwards stated it is a nonprofit governmental agency. The District is in debit for \$3 billion on various bonds and has \$1 billion in reserves. The District is the only governmental agency to receive AAA status.

Vice-Chairperson Gray asked if any agency has approached flood control to purchase water. Mr. Edwards stated water enters the system so rapidly it needs to be stored at a different place. Southern California does not have large enough facilities to hold water. Conservation is one of the District's programs including low flush toilets, waterless urinals, landscaping programs, front load washing machines which use less water and recycling for x-rays.

Commissioner O'Connor asked about the need for different levels of water agencies. Mr. Edwards stated in State of California there are 4800 agencies falling into three classifications:

- Municipal Water Agency and/or Governmental Agency (Special Districts)
- Water Agency - nonprofit agency, benefits people within the agency, (Stock Company Style)
- Profit Water Agency - privately owned

Commissioner Epstein discussed dual water systems in newer developments allowing in part for untreated water to go into the toilets and treated water to come out of the faucets.

Commissioner Coombs asked what the Commission can do to improve the process. Mr. Edwards stated recent legislation allows LAFCO to merge agencies but there is a learning curve and currently there are many thieftoms. Commissioner O'Connor will communicate with her associate, Carol Herrera, who is on the LAFCO Board.

On motion of Commissioner Coombs, seconded by Commissioner Rozell, the Commission unanimously approved forming a study committee to define a mission to examine water issues and LAFCO's potential to aid in shaping a more effective water supply/delivery process.

Commissioner Coombs will contact the Hanes Foundation regarding a potential study and he will Chair this water issues subcommittee.

UPDATE ON CALTRANS PROJECT

Wilfred Melton stated the Cities' responses the Commission forwarded to Caltrans had a high number of maintenance issues. The responses were divided into two sections: maintenance and planning. The planning group now is called Community Planning. The Cities' concerns

included signalization, sound wall, graffiti, trash removal and landscaping. Mr. Melton stated on planning issues Caltrans would like to take a step further to include regional development, smart growth and livable communities.

Commissioners expressed concerns about the timeliness of responding to the individual cities who responded to the questionnaire. Commissioner Leiga asked Mr. Melton to compose a list and check items completed from the list. Staff volunteered to resend copies of the responses received from the Cities. Mr. Melton agreed to send letters to the individual cities addressing their concerns and ensuring the communities' satisfaction with the resolution of issues.

STUDY COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE STATUS REPORT

There were none.

MATTERS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA (TO BE PRESENTED AND PLACED ON THE AGENDA FOR A FUTURE MEETING)

There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS PRESENT

Walter Coombs
Shane E. Epstein
Gordon Gray
Patricia Gray
Algrid Leiga
Deborah H. O' Connor
Kenneth D. Rozell
David Spence

GUESTS

Jim Edwards, Los Angeles Metropolitan Water District
Wilfred Melton, Caltrans Planning Project

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Wendy Brogin
Rodrigo A. Guerra. Jr.
Sharon Martinez
Richard J. Rosenthal
William Selditz
Terri Tippit
Frank Venti

STAFF

Martha Littlefield
Garen Khachian